REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16, 31, and 32 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 16. Claims 2, 17, and 31 are cancelled by this reply.

Drawings

The Examiner has not formally accepted the drawings filed on April 27, 2001. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the filed formal drawings are acceptable.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 16, and 32 have been amended to clarify that (i) the system includes a plurality of remote servers and (ii) that the chaining backend comprises a directory information tree defining the hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers. Dependent claims 7, 9, 12-15, 22, 27-29, and 30 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues resulting from the amendment of independent claims 1 and 16. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 9 – 11 (as well as the accompanying text) in the instant specification. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned amendments. Applicant

respectfully asserts that the entry of these amendments should not require further search. Accordingly, entry and favorable consideration of these amendments is requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-4, 9-10, 16-20, 24-25, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,758,343 ("Vigil"). Claims 2, 17, and 31 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot with respect to the cancelled claims. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the pending amended and non-amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. The Applicant respectfully asserts Vigil fails to teach or suggest at least the following limitations recited in the amended claims:

(i)   A system that includes a chaining backend operatively connected to a plurality of remote servers – Vigil is directed to a *single* system which includes multiple processors and a system for distributing work across the multiple processors (*see* Vigil, col. 3, ll. 25-27 and col. 4, ll. 23-31). In contrast, the invention as recited in the claims includes a chaining backend that is used to distribute requests across *multiple remote* servers; and

(ii)   A chaining backend that includes a directory information tree, which defines the hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers – As discussed above, Vigil is directed to distributing work across multiple processors within a *single* system. Thus, it follows that because Vigil is silent with respect to distributing work across remote servers, Vigil does not teach or suggest a directory information tree which defines the *hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers* operatively connected to the chaining backend.

In view of the above, Vigil fails to teach or suggest all the limitations recited in claims 1, 16, and 32. Thus, claims 1, 16, and 32 are patentable over Vigil. The pending dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 6-8, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,872 ("Ambrosini"). Claim 7 has been cancelled by this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 7. To the extent that this rejection still applies to amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 8, and 21-23 depend from amended independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 6-8 and 21-23 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16. Further, Ambrosini does not teach or suggest that which Vigil lacks as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relies on Ambrosini to teach "pass-through authentication" (*See* Office Action mailed June 9, 2005, p. 4). In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil and Ambrosini. Thus, claims 6, 8, and 21-23 are also patentable over Vigil and Ambrosini. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,681 ("Harvey"). To the extent that this rejection still applies to amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 depend from amended independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16. Further, Harvey does not teach or suggest that which Vigial lacks as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relies on Harvey to teach "checking the status of

request" (*See* Office Action mailed June 9, 2005, p. 5). In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil and Harvey. Thus, claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 are also patentable over Vigil and Harvey. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,209,036 ("Aldred"). To the extent that this rejection still applies to amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 27 depend from amended independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 12 and 27 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16. Further, Aldred does not teach or suggest that which Vigial lacks as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relies on Aldred to teach "returning a referral to a remote server" (*See* Office Action mailed June 9, 2005, p. 6). In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil and Aldred. Thus, claims 12 and 27 are also patentable over Vigil and Aldred. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred. To the extent that this rejection still applies to amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.
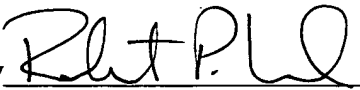
Claims 15 and 30 depend from amended independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 15 and 30 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16. Further, as discussed above, Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred do not teach or suggest that which Vigial lacks. In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil, Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred. Thus, claims 15 and 30 are also patentable over Vigil, Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/005001).

Dated: September 9, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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